

IMPLEMENTATION OF ALIGNMENT TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

**P-16 Council
Agenda Item E-1
September 21, 2001**

Information

Acting on the recommendation of the P-16 Council, the Council on Postsecondary Education approved the literacy and mathematics alignment teams' recommendations at its May meeting. The Kentucky Board of Education's Learning Support/Learning Results Committee accepted the alignment teams' recommendations at its June board meeting. Each agency staff is working to implement the recommendations.

At its August meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education agreed that schools should emphasize writing beyond portfolio requirements. The board supports the teaching of reading and literacy at all grade levels and the diagnosis of reading difficulties by the schools. However, the board does not want to put the writing portfolio scores on student transcripts because the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System is designed to provide accountability for schools and districts, not to measure individual performance.

Board members also thought that requiring an additional course of mathematics in high school or requiring Algebra II for a high school diploma would require reopening the Program of Studies, which the board is reluctant to do at this time. They also noted that algebraic concepts are already part of the Program of Studies and are assessed by the CATS at grades five, eight, and 11. The department can, however, provide greater guidance to local schools encouraging additional coursework and rigor in mathematics. The board supports the guidelines recommended by the KDE Algebra II Task Force and supports the Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program, along with earlier on-going assessments. The Teachers' Professional Growth Fund continues to support professional development in mathematics.

The chief academic officers of the postsecondary institutions agreed to consider use of the Kentucky Department of Education Holistic Scoring Guide to assess college-level writing and to provide links to information about their admissions and placement policies in English and mathematics from the Council on Postsecondary Education Web site. At least one university already uses the CATS writing portfolio as a placement tool for English class, and others are considering doing so. The CAO's are considering ways to provide incentives and rewards to faculty in all disciplines for working with P-12 teachers. Some of the universities received support for such faculty-teacher initiatives through the trust funds allocated this year.

The chief academic officers' task force on teacher quality (Agenda Item D-1) will include implementation of the P-16 Council's alignment team recommendations as a part of its recommendation for improving teacher preparation programs. This year the Council on Postsecondary Education has highlighted the alignment teams' recommendations on algebra and reading as priorities for awarding nearly \$1,000,000 in Eisenhower funds for the professional development of P-12 teachers.